

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

**AMBER ALERT SYSTEM:
SUCCESS STORIES**

SUCCESS STORY: TEXAS

August 2002

The AMBER Alert was credited for the safe return of an 11-month-old boy. After he was taken by a relative to the store and not returned, police issued an AMBER Alert asking for help finding the family member's car. About an hour later, a school bus driver, who saw the Alert on an electronic highway traffic sign, spotted the car and called authorities. The suspect was arrested and the child was recovered unharmed.

**SUCCESS STORY:
CALIFORNIA**

November 2002

A 7-year-old boy was found unharmed when a man who allegedly kidnapped him overnight heard his name broadcast on a statewide AMBER Alert system and promptly turned himself in.

SUCCESS STORY: OHIO

October 2002

Northeast Ohio's first AMBER Alert was successful in helping authorities find a 5-year-old girl who had been taken from her house. Two men had abducted the child's aunt. The aunt managed to escape, but one of the men used the aunt's keys to get into the house and take the little girl from her bedroom. Authorities were notified and an AMBER Alert was issued. Within an hour after the AMBER Plan was activated, the police department was inundated with phone calls. After many calls and with help from the taxi company, authorities were able to find one of the men with the girl. The man was taken into custody and the 5-year-old was returned to her family unharmed.

February 11, 2003


Dear Colleague:

As we can see from these success stories and many others, AMBER Alert plans work to bring missing and abducted children home to their families. The success of this program has been remarkable. Since its establishment in 1996, the voluntary AMBER Alert network has been credited with the recovery of 44 children nationwide. It has also led to the formation of 83 local, regional, and statewide AMBER Alert plans.

Our bill, **H.R. 412, the National AMBER Alert Network Act**, continues the voluntary spirit of the program that originated in Arlington, Texas by building on the current network to successfully recover children. The legislation would establish an AMBER Alert Coordinator within the Department of Justice to assist states with their AMBER Alert plans. The Coordinator would set **minimum, voluntary standards** to help states coordinate alerts when necessary and applicable. The legislation also provides for matching grants through the Departments of Transportation and Justice for highway signage, education and training programs, and equipment to facilitate AMBER Alert systems. **The Frost-Dunn bill does not mandate the creation of AMBER Plans.** Rather, it offers states resources to further strengthen the network of AMBER Plans. Our legislation has been endorsed by **the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the National Association of Broadcasters, the Polly Klass Foundation** and also enjoys the overwhelming support of **113 House members** from both sides of the aisle. Last year, at the first White House Conference on Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children, President Bush expressed his support for the AMBER Alert program and the National AMBER Alert Network Act.

We believe it is critical to offer all communities the necessary resources to recover abducted children. Please join us in this bipartisan effort to give parents the peace of mind that their children can safely play outside. For more information regarding this legislation or to become a cosponsor, please contact Yelena Vaynberg, with Representative Dunn, at 225-7761, or Shannon Hillman, with Representative Frost, at 225-3605.

Sincerely,



MARTIN FROST
Member of Congress


JENNIFER DUNN
Member of Congress